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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the establishment of the "customs service of Kosovo", of which the Federal Customs Administration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been informed by the Customs Office at Pristina. The Office exercises "customs control" and charges "customs duties" on goods imported from abroad, as well as those originating from Serbia, and issues appropriate "documents". At the same time, no customs procedure of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is applied in the area of Kosovo and Metohija and the physical integrity and property of Yugoslav customs officers are threatened. This situation has not changed with the arrival of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Bernard Kouchner, or the deployment of international police. On the contrary, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo has set about establishing a separate "customs service of Kosovo".

The establishment of a "customs service of Kosovo" constitutes a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), particularly its provisions in respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Bearing that in mind, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that the said "service" be disbanded, that Yugoslav customs officers be allowed to return to the border crossings to Albania and Macedonia, and that the Yugoslav customs service in Kosovo and Metohija be enabled to function undisturbed.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

